

June 9, 2010

East Troy Times

Letters to the editor

To Town of East Troy voters

CRG's comments about our local town board supervisors are absurd! In last week's article, Bret Strong charges that Supervisor Montez "shows a lack of interest for high property assessments, jobs and homes lost to foreclosure." Think how stupid those remarks are.

Property assessments are determined by an independent assessor that follows the guidelines from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. Comparative market prices drive assessments. My understanding is that market prices nearly match the town's overall assessed values at this time. It will cost town taxpayers about \$40,000 to reassess properties, only to find that a reassessment will have little affect. Check out the Town Hall website and look in the FAQ section <http://www.townofeasttroy.com/faq/>. You'll find a handy property owner's guide that tells the true story about property assessments.

What about jobs? As far as I know, our town government is not in the business of job marketing. The two neighboring villages are zoned for commercial and industry and that seems to work well for us who prefer to live in a rural environment.

And homes lost to foreclosure? That is certainly beyond the scope of local government, let alone for one of three town board members to have any say over banking and real estate issues.

With regards to government policy, aren't all three board members responsible for making policy decisions for the town? Where does the Town Chairman stand on local issues? Nobody knows - he never votes on anything.

And as for spending money, don't you know that we as town electors approve an annual budget that the town board must follow throughout the year? No exceptions are made without public disclosure and Town Board review for dedicated funds.

We have had good government as far back as I can remember, perhaps for over 20 years. Why are things falling apart since Mr. Stoesser took office only last year? Maybe it is due to his complete lack of political credentials and ignorance of how government works, and a strong penchant for mud slinging.

Don't take hearsay for granted. Verify the facts. Don't let Bret Strong of CRG or Mr. Stoesser fool you.

*Allen W. Larson
Town of East Troy*

Town of East Troy citizens attempt to recall chairman, supervisor

Tom McCormack
CORRESPONDENT

Residents from the Town of East Troy are seeking to recall two of its three board members, according to petitions filed at the town hall recently.

Town of East Troy Clerk Kim Buchanan confirmed she accepted recall petitions for Supervisor Clayton Montez and Chairman John Stoesser.

According to Buchanan, both petitions contained more than the 446 signatures required to force a recall vote.

On May 17, Citizens for Responsible Government representative Bret Strong filed the petitions for the recall of Supervisor Montez.

Strong and CRG have charged Montez with a "lack of interest in local issues such as high property assessments, jobs and homes lost to foreclosure," according to a press release submitted by Strong.

The group also claims, "It took a referendum to stop Montez's efforts to take land away from our neighbors," and "we were shocked to find that Montez had allowed the Town to waste nearly \$110,000 on this process."

On June 1, opponents of Chairman John Stoesser filed their petition for recall.

Town Taxpayers for Accountable Government have uploaded a PDF document to the web outlining their reasons for seeking a recall of Stoesser.

The document cites "weak leadership," "opinionated communications," and claims Stoesser "violates state statutes."

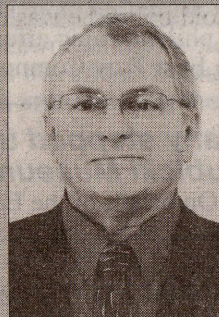
Specifically the group states Stoesser, "Fails fiduciary obligations to pay bills," "Verbally abuses and tries to manipulate town employees," and "Confuses citizens before to authorize tax levy with board responsibilities."

Before the petitions are officially recorded they must be certified for sufficiency, a process where each signature is verified as belonging to a legal resident of the Town of East Troy who is also eligible to vote. Buchanan explained that once the petitions are certified, they can then be brought to the Town Board and a recall election date can be set. Wisconsin Statute requires the vote to take place six Tuesdays after certification is complete.

Montez and Stoesser can challenge the petitions within 10 days of their submission. Supervisor Montez's challenge period has expired without a challenge from him. Chairman Stoesser has until June 11 to rebut the petitions. Chairman Stoesser and Supervisor Montez were not available for comment at press time.



Clayton Montez



John Stoesser

